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Removing the Battle Flags

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REMOVING THE BATTLE FLAGS.

Most of the States—even those of the South—long ago placed the flags borne by their military organizations, during the war for the Union, in safe and permanent quarters. But those of Iowa had hung in the old Adjutant-General's office, in Des Moines, with very slight protection, subject to the influences of decay and gradually dropping to pieces. This neglect was occasionally mentioned, but no movement for their protection was ever initiated until the winter of 1892, when Hon. A. J. Chantry, of Mills County, introduced "Senate File No. 374, a bill for an act for the better protection of the colors, standards and battle-flags, carried by Iowa regiments and batteries in the war of the rebellion." This bill, which became a law, referred the matter to the Adjutant-General and Curator of Historical Collections, and appropriated the sum of \$3,000 to defray the expense of procuring the necessary cases and arranging the flags. There were many delays, owing to the illness and absence of Adjutant General Greene, who had the matter principally in charge; but after he was able to visit several other States and study the disposition which had been made of their flags, plans were prepared which met the approval of the Executive Council, resulting in the construction of two compact and most beautiful cases—one on each side of the entrance to the State Library. Upon the completion of this work, there seemed to be a unanimous feeling among the surviving soldiers of this State in favor of making the transfer of flags to the capitol building an affair of ceremony, in which all who marched under them should be invited to participate. This feeling was also universal among our people generally. In deference to this unmistakable public sentiment Gov. Frank D. Jackson on the 28th of June issued his proclamation naming the 10th day of August, 1894, "as an appropriate day for the transfer of the battle-flags from the State Arsenal to the capitol building," recommending that this day "be known and referred to as Battle Flag Day, and that it be observed as a public holiday

consecrated to the memory of the patriotism and valor of Iowa's soldiers, living and dead."

The matter was then taken in hand by the committee of arrangements, who issued an "official announcement for Battle Flag Day."

The details of the parade and exercises are too lengthy to be reproduced in these pages, but may be found in the newspapers of the 10th and 11th days of August. We also understand that there is a probability that the proceedings of the day with all its incidents before and afterwards, will be officially published in a neat memorial volume accessible to all. The Adjutant General of the State estimated that there were 3500 to 4000 Iowa Soldiers of 1861-65 in the city, all of whom who were able to walk were eager to join in this last march in honor of these precious old flags under which so many of their comrades had died. The day was very hot, and some vexatious delays occurred in the formation of the parade, but the occasion as a whole was a magnificent success, only surpassed, perhaps, in interest and importance by the great gathering of 20,000 Iowa soldiers at Des Moines in 1870.

The flags having been delivered to the representatives of the various regiments by Lt. Gov. W. S. Dungan, the procession marched to the Capitol, where the exercises were as follows:

1. Call to order by Gen. J. W. Noble, late Sec'y of the Interior, presiding officer.
2. Music, by the Des Moines Union Band.
3. Invocation, Rev. A. V. Kendrick.
4. Original Poem, Major S. H. M. Byers.
5. Address, "Returning the Flags to the State," Major John F. Lacy.
6. Response by Governor Frank D. Jackson.
7. Martial Music, Carper's Drum Corps.
8. Song, "Star Spangled Banner," Mrs. Jessie Cheek.

The following is an official list of the flags carried by Iowa Regiments during the War of the Rebellion, and borne by the old soldiers to the Capitol building:

ARM OF SERVICE.	National.	Banners.	Guilions.
CAVALRY.			
First regiment.....	1		
Second regiment.....			4
Third regiment.....	2		2

Fourth regiment.....	1	2:
Fifth regiment.....		2:
Seventh regiment.....	1	
Eighth regiment.....	1	2:

ARTILLERY.

First battery.....	2
Second battery.....	1
Fourth battery.....	1 1

INFANTRY.

First regiment.....	1	
Second regiment.....	4	2
Third regiment.....	3	
Fourth regiment.....		2
Fifth regiment.....	1	2
Sixth regiment.....	2	1
Seventh regiment.....	2	1
Eighth regiment.....	2	2
Ninth regiment.....	2	2
Tenth regiment.....		2
Eleventh regiment.....	2	1
Twelfth regiment.....	1	2
Thirteenth regiment.....	1	
Fourteenth regiment.....	1	1
Fifteenth regiment.....	4	3
Sixteenth regiment.....	2	2
Seventeenth regiment.....	3	2
Eighteenth regiment.....	1	2
Nineteenth regiment.....	1	2
Twentieth regiment.....	1	2
Twenty-first regiment.....	1	1
Twenty-second regiment.....	2	2
Twenty-third regiment.....	1	1
Twenty-fourth regiment.....	1	
Twenty-fifth regiment.....	2	3
Twenty-sixth regiment.....	2	1
Twenty-seventh regiment.....	1	2
Twenty-eighth regiment.....	2	2
Twenty-ninth regiment.....		1
Thirtieth regiment.....	2	
Thirty-first regiment.....	2	2
Thirty-second regiment.....	1	
Thirty-third regiment.....	1	1
Thirty-fourth regiment.....	2	1
Thirty-fifth regiment.....	2	2
Thirty-sixth regiment.....		2
Thirty-eighth regiment.....	1	
Thirty-ninth regiment.....	2	1
Fortieth regiment.....	1	
Unknown.....		1

COLORED TROOPS.

First infantry (60th U. S. Vol. A. D.).....	1		
Total.....	67	59	12:

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